



Vulnerability of indigenous health to climate change: A case study of Uganda's Batwa Pygmies

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Year: 2012
Journal: Social Science & Medicine. 75 (6): 1067-1077

Abstract:

The potential impacts of climate change on human health in sub-Saharan Africa are wide-ranging, complex, and largely adverse. The region's Indigenous peoples are considered to be at heightened risk given their relatively poor health outcomes, marginal social status, and resource-based livelihoods; however, little attention has been given to these most vulnerable of the vulnerable. This paper contributes to addressing this gap by taking a bottom-up approach to assessing health vulnerabilities to climate change in two Batwa Pygmy communities in rural Uganda. Rapid Rural Appraisal and PhotoVoice field methods complemented by qualitative data analysis were used to identify key climate-sensitive, community-identified health outcomes, describe determinants of sensitivity at multiple scales, and characterize adaptive capacity of Batwa health systems. The findings stress the importance of human drivers of vulnerability and adaptive capacity and the need to address social determinants of health in order to reduce the potential disease burden of climate change.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.04.016>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Temperature

Food/Water Quality: Pathogen

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Non-United States

Non-United States: Africa

African Region/Country: African Country

Other African Country: Uganda

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Airborne Disease, Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Airborne Disease: Tuberculosis

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria

Respiratory Effect: Bronchitis/Pneumonia, Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : Tuberculosis

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Uganda's indigenous Batwa Pygmies

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ☒

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

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